Brackishwater Aquaculture issued by the Ministry of agriculture, Govt. of India.

5 (iii) Government of India should formulate and issue Guidelines for freshwater aquaculture.

6 (i) All States may implement and complete the scheme on Development of Inland Fisheries Statistics during the Ninth Five Year Plan so that accurate data of production from inland fishery resources could be compiled.

6 (ii) The survey on assessment of fish production in Fish Farmer's Development Agencies (FFDAs) may be carried out by all the States and Union Territory of Pondicherry from 1996-97 onwards.

Para-Military Forces

2641 SHRI A.C. JOS
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to raise two Para-Military Battalions for BSF and CRPF by recruiting surrendered militants of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the raising of 1 Bn. each of the BSF and CRPF which would provide an opportunity of recruitment to the surrendered militants in Jammu and Kashmir. The estimated expenditure on this account will be Rs. 68.53 crore. The concerned organisations and the State Government have been advised to take action further for raising these Battalions expeditiously.

Prices of Coconut

2642 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a steep fall in the prices of coconut;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to arrest the decline in its prices and also to ensure remunerative prices for the coconut?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (c) The wholesale price index of copra during the week ending 16.11.1996 (the latest) has been 29.4 per cent higher compared to the corresponding period last year. The ruling market prices of copra are also ruling above the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) announced by the Government for the 1996 season.

[Translation]

Programmes for Minority

2643 SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) details of the programmes implemented for the welfare of minorities in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Union Government are monitoring the implementation of various programmes for the welfare of minorities in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount spent on these programmes in the State during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The following programmes are being implemented for the welfare of minorities all over the country including the State of Maharashtra :

(i) the pre-examination Coaching Scheme for Weaker Sections based on Economic Criteria is being implemented since 1992-93 for the target group consisting of minorities and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes with a annual income of Rs. 24,000/- per annum.

(ii) The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation is providing loan facilities since September 1994 at concessional rate of interest to the backward sections among minorities. The NMDFC implements its Scheme through the State Channelising agencies. Name of such agency in Maharashtra is Mahatma Phule Backward Classes Financial Corporation.

(iii) The Scheme of Multi-sectoral Development Plan is being implemented in the minority concentration districts with a view to asesess the requrements of credit, technological, training and marketing support required for carrying out such activities and the means through which they can be arranged. This Scheme is implemented through the concerned State Govts.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Welfare monitors the progress of the implementation of Pre-examination Coaching Scheme on the basis of quarterly reports submitted to the Ministry by the voluntary organisations engaged in coaching activities through the State Government of Maharashtra.